College Library

HAMILTON LIFE

The Weekly Student Publication of Hamilton College

VOL. XI CLINTON, N. Y., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1909 No. 17

SENIORS WIN

The Interclass debate, 1909 vs. 1910 of last Monday evening was full of encouragement to those who seek progress by Hamilton in this activity. The fight was close from beginning to end; and the verdict of the judges was awaited with excited suspense. The question debated was: "Resolved that a system of Direct Nominations should be established in New York State for all elective officers (excepting United States Senators.") The committee, composed of Dr. Wood, *chairman,* Professor Morrill, Professor Babcock and Dr. A. P. Saunders, awarded the debate to 1909—the negative side of the question.

SHERWIN was the first speaker on the affirmative. Since the present system is bad and incapable of reform, a new system is necessary, therefore direct nominations. The machine methods are notorious. Rings control the legislature, the judiciary, the state. Reform has been attempted thruout the last fifty years—but in vain. Bosses control the caucus, therefore everything. The fact that the better men are for direct nominations is significant.

Sherwin argued in strong, mature manner and gestured easily. His words, however, were not incisive and his argument lacked consistence and sometimes logic.

TRUAX was the first negative—This question was the first on which the Hughes Coterie had split. The system was of mushroom growth and a western movement, and bound up with such measures as initiative and referendum. The affirmative has to prove: Predominance of abuses, inherent defect, and erroneous principal of present system. Also they must show that their proposed system will work better. The proposed system is democratic rather than republican—Republican government is the only kind feasible in a populous complex country.

Perhaps Truax was too heavy and wasted time to gain deliberativeness. But his proofs were conclusive and his words concise. His argument had a logical sequence that was as easy to follow as it was persuasive.

JUDSON. With bribery, boss rule and general corruption as the chief features, the present system does not and cannot attract the good voter to participate. Reform of these abuses has been found impossible. Hence, once the bulk of the respectable vote has no voice under the present system, it is not representative.

Judson was strong in spots but not consistently. He often lacked clear expression of excellent thought. His manner was earnest and his gestures spontaneous.

MARRIOTT—In the whole United States there is hardly one complete state-wide system. In the South it is important enough to warrant a second primary in case of a minority high vote. But this is because the primary is virtually the election in that there is only one strong party. Kansas success also due to special cause—the personalities of the leading candidates. Money is too often the deciding factor in direct nominations owing to cost of petition, advertisement and items not so legitimate. Nomination by plurality is wrong. "Antis" have little chance against machine. Intelligent selection of second choices almost impossible.

Marriott spoke in strong, simple words, often with a pleasing sarcasm. His argument was destructive and gained ground for his side. His manner was easy and earnest.

BALDWIN—Proposed system is 48 years old—not mushroom. Not Western, because West got it from East. The system to be established should be: Mandatory, state-wide, covering all elective offices except United State Senators, nomination by petition, publication of nominees, regular election regulations, Australian ballot, rotation system and system of second choices.

Baldwin was exceedingly forcible. His argument, however, was too technical, in that the features outlined in his proposed system were unintelligible to the majority. His words were crisp and trenchant; and his manner, powerful.

RIFENBARK—The direct nominations offend the fundamental principles of our government. Like its sister movements, it lacks the representative essence so necessary to America. Real trouble with present system, is in the primaries. Yet if you can't elect one local delegate, how can you nominate a myriad of state officers with any greater intelligence? Reform the system, but don't kill it to cure it. It has potentiality, e. g., Governor Hughes' election this fall in spite of all opposition.

Rifenbark had the material for argument, on the validity of which practically rested the whole debate. Tho strong, clear and earnest, he lacked the effectiveness which his form of last year had led us to expect.

DOUNCE—To have representative government we must have the legislators responsible to the people—the new system makes for this, more men nominate in direct system. Nor are there too many nominees—two to an office. Expense is no objection in that the purpose is educational. The fact that there *was* opposition to Governor Hughes, is an argument for the proposed system.

Dounce was the best talker of the evening. Never have we heard a debate of such rapid-fire and at the same time of such faultless phraseology. Perhaps he tried to cover too many points, and consequently drove but few home. But his debating almost turned the tide.

WALLACE—Parties indispensable in United States. Party platforms imperilled by new system, and party organization regarded with murderous

intent. Under new system, weaker parties cannot take advantage of the contingency of the ruling party, nominating a weak man. Cities having a majority, will be the dominant section in the new system and the array of city versus country will result. Hence the city demagogues will be in the ascendency.

Wallace had strength in manner to a superior degree. His voice and gestures were almost perfect. His argument, however, did not progress with the clearness and force that his manner demanded.

THE FRESHMAN BANQUET

Monday the Freshmen held their Banquet at the Butterfield in Utica. They left for Utica on the five o'clock trolley, and had to wait until seven o'clock before the Banquet came off.

The committee had well laid plans and not until the Freshmen were well on their way to Utica, did the Sophs discover anything unusual. Then they quickly assembled and went to Utica to break up the banquet. However, after a few vain attempts, including trying to bribe the hotel clerk and posing as Freshmen, they gave it up and returned to stack the Freshmen's rooms, which they did rather effectually. Meanwhile the Freshmen were having a high old time in the dining room of the Butterfield.

The decoration was done by Mrs. Swan, wife of the propriteor. The long tables bore the class colors, black and red, lengthwise of the white cloth and carnations were at each plate. The cards, which were tied with the class colors, bore the menu, the toast program and the committee in charge.

When the feasting was completed, Drummond, as toastmaster, introduced C. J. Mangan to speak of "The Class." Everything that could be said concerning the class was spoken of by Mangan. "The Spirit of 1912" was then treated by Mason. He mentioned that it did not refer to the liquid portion of the banquet, but rather to that which caused the banquet. C. D. Root then spoke on "The Sophomore," and perhaps it would be too antagonistic to publish in LIFE all his remarks, but nevertheless Root treated them fairly. McGovern had a few things to say about the "Faculty" and altho they were treated rather informally, they had all the respect due to such a learned body. W. L. Clark, on "Our Athletes" did high honor to Hamilton College athletics, with special reference to the athletes of the Sophomore Class who had been trying to break an entrance thru the windows. Soper gave a rather inverted idea as to what "The Bohners" should be, and intimated that an easy chair and pipe should be a Bohner's companion, rather than a desk and text books.

Wallace then gave some good advice concerning the "Chapel Bell" and Erskine closed the formal program with a rousing toast to "Alma Mater." An informal program, consisting of songs and stories followed. The committee was McGovern, *Chairman,* Dorrance, Connell, Eddy, Grant, P. H. Clarke, Wallace and Watkins.

Y M. C. A. NOTES

Mr. Willard D. Ball, a prominent lawyer of Utica, will speak at the regular five o'clock meeting in Silliman Hall; his subject—"Man and Fellowman." Having been at one time secretary of the Cincinnati City Association, Mr. Ball comes to us from a field of rich experience. Since his services are in constant demand thruout this section of the state, we may consider this an opportunity which the College should not miss.

At seven o'clock next Thursday evening the Freshmen will hold their weekly prayer meeting. Those who are supporting these meetings deserves much credit. The Cabinet sincerely hopes that the class in general will assume more responsibility in making a success of this work. At three o'clock on Sunday, the Bible Study Class for Freshmen will meet as usual. This course seems to meet general approval, and is worthy of another term's work.

Those who are studying "Down on the Hills of Tang," we'll meet at three o'clock for consideration of the third chapter. The leader urges a continuation of present increase in attendance and interest.

Martin, '11, recently spoke to an appreciative audience in Kirkland, on the Mormon problem. Robinson, '11, is the regular supply for the evening services of this village church. For tomorrow evening he has secured the services of two other men to help him in a special program for the national Christian Endeavor Day.

H. C. Evans, '09, as chairman of the Music Committee, is adding spice to our Sunday meetings, by his six-piece orchestra. He hopes from time to time to arrange appropriate vocal and instrumental solos. When the other members do their part, by attendance and singing, the hour becomes both enjoyable and beneficial.

Next Sunday is to be observed the world over as the "Universal Day of Prayer for Students." Members and friends of all kinds of Christian societies will unite in special intercession to this end during the coming week. Our Association may well afford to do its part.

—Dr. Davenport's Great Dane went out on a foraging expedition last Tuesday evening and succeeded in overturning a few chicken-coops in the neighborhood, and killing some of the inmates.

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Reportorial

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WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY seems far in the future, but near enough for some to start plans for home-going. LIFE would like to suggest some ideas that might modify those plans. February 22nd is NOT a holiday here. In the few years that we have been freed from recitations on that day, it has been granted with the express promise that the student body attend the lecture furnished for that day by the College. Thus there is a virtual contract. The College gives us the day, *provided* we attend the lecture. If we do not fulfill that provision, we violate a contract. Can your little excursion justify that? There is but one alternative. On the other hand a man may be justified in being discourteous to the men who speak—if he has no pride in the College he is right in staying away and letting a prominent man talk to the stained glass windows. But possibly some of you who were looking up time-tables, have some pride in Hamilton.

THE USUAL COMPLAINT has again taken form with regard to the use of the reading room in the Y. M. C. A. Newspapers are bought and placed there, daily, for the use of the College at large, and are *not* intended to be mutilated in any way. We all enjoy reading the accounts of events connected with the College, and recourse to them is often necessary. It is decidedly unfair to the rest of the College, for certain thoughtless ones to appropriate these items for their own personal use. This is not a new complaint: let such be made unnecessary in the future.

THE FRESHMAN BANQUET EVOKED much adverse feeling on the part of the College, owing to the fact that the date conflicted with the Interclass Debate. On investigation it has been found that the arrangements were entirely in the hands of the committee, until two o'clock of the afternoon of the event, that the plans were first begun on January seventh, that the fact that attendance at the debate was a duty, was not realized by the committee until three days prior to the event—too late, the committee mantains to change the plans—that is the committee's explanation. Hence, tho the class as a whole is not entirely culpable, they are to blame in that ignorance of a duty is, necessarily, insufficient reason to violate an obligation LIFE feels, however, that the Freshmen realize this now, and that they will guard the College interests more discreetly in the future.

To the Editor of LIFE:

LIFE has several times stated as its judgment that the Sophomore Hop and Freshman Frolic, are more or less useless and ought to be abolished. This would seem a most unwise move. Our social activities in College are, to say the least, limited. A few of us seem to think that we have done enough for the whole year when we have gone thru Junior week, and in many cases, gone away Senior week. But how about the rest of the year?

The recent successful Sophomore proves that such dances can be financially satisfactory, and by the same token, bright spots in the social calendar. The underclass dances are too valuable to lose, and rightly managed they must prove a source of great pleasure. To many they extend the opportunity of a College dance, which is not afforded by either Junior or Senior. To my mind, at least, to drop these dances would be a real mistake.

—*J. Harry Parry, '11.*

JUNIOR PROM.

The much-herald Junior Prom. will soon be a reality, and then pass, as all good things do, into a loving memory. Now those who have been far-sighted are happy and the others, are retrimming some New Year's resolutions. It is too late, and would besides be usless to retail the unusual and attractive features of this particular Prom. The Committee announces that the advance cards will be out at five o'clock sharp, Monday afternoon. Contrary to the usual custom the Prom. will begin at nine o'clock precisely, and the preliminary Concert begins at 8:40 sharp. It has been decided, both out of consideration for the Patronesses and in making arrangements for the music, that the Prom. will close at three o'clock. In order to complete the program, it is absolutely necessary that dancing begin at nine. The help of the various crowds is asked in making this possible. If all do their best toward success, things will be as near perfection as may be.

MUSICAL CLUBS

The Prom. Concert will be given at Commons Hall, Thursday afternoon, at 3:30 o'clock. The management requests the support of the whole College body. On February 16th the Clubs will give a concert at Rome in Hazelton Hall, under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A. Negotiations are under way for a concert in New Hartford on or about February 25th.

The Musical Clubs started Thursday on a trip to Gloversville and Schenectady. The following men participated: C. E. Leavenworth, '09, H. E. Figgles, '09, A. F. Osborn, '09, M. Rifenbark, '09, F. H. Smyth, '09, R. B. Rudd, '09, A. H. Woollcott, '09, Benn Barber, '10, C. F. Hemenway, '10, J. W. McNair, '10, P. B. Fiske, '10, I. A. Hall, '10, J. M. Hastings, jr., '10, H. L. Sarles, '10, J. D. Judson, '10, Ralph Renwick, '10, R. W. Titus, '10, J. M. Cross, '10, H. E. Dounce, '10, D. R. Sidle, '11, H. F. Johnson, '11, Theo. Peters, '11, W. C. West-

cott, '11, G. F. Gouge, '11, P. M. Allen, '11, C. S. Adams, '12, James Eells, '12, W. C. DuBois, '12, C. E. Thomas, '12,

The program was: 1. "Jenks' Compound," Glee Club; 2. Selection from "The Three Twins," Mandolin Club; 3. "Love's Dilemma," Mr. Hastings and Mandolin Quintette; 4. The Devil's Patrol," Mandolin Club; 5. "1909 Tutti Frutti," (arr. by Smyth, '09 & Stone, '10) Glee Club; 6. "Boston Ideal March," Mandolin—Messrs. Hemenway, Leavenworth, Westcott, Guitar—Mr. Hall; 7. A Monolog, Mr. Woollcott; 8. "The Vagabond," Mr. Sarles; 9. "An Old Rat's Tail," Glee Club; 10. Melodies, Messrs. Hastings, Gouge, Sarles, Allen; 11. "The Teddy Bears' Picnic," Mandolin Glub; 12. 1909 Campus Medley, (arr. by Sicard, '06 & Stone, '10) Glee Club; 13. "Carissima," (Stryker, '72) Glee Club.

—The Hamilton Alumni in the northern part of the state have offered a cup to be competed for by the Basketball teams of the high schools in that section.

—The decorations for the Junior Prom. are to be done by Fraser of Utica. The arrangements will be more than complete this year.

—Senator Root, '64, will be the chief guest of the annual dinner of the Albany Republican Organization, to be held in Albany on the evening of February 25th.

—A dinner in honor of Vice-President Elect Sherman, '78, was given by the New York Congressional delegation, January 23rd. President Roosevelt and Senator-Elect Root, '64, were the chief speakers.

—Dr. Richmond, pastor of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church of Albany, has been elected President of Union. He is a graduate of Princeton, but received his doctor's degree from this College in 1905.

—Arrangements are being made for a banquet to be given to Secretary Root by the Peace Society of the City of New York on Friday evening, Feb. 26th, at Hotel Astor. Among the guests wil be President-Elect Taft and British Ambassador Bryce.

—Sherill Sherman, '04, who has been in the Utica Trust and Deposit Co., will soon be associated with Mr. George A. Frisbie in the Frisbie, Coon Co., a new corporation which will have its executive offices in Utica.

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Local Department

E. P. Glover, Local Editor.

NOTES

—WANTED: A mail-box in South.

—A telephone has been installed in Sigma Phi Hall.

—The Fire-place in Commons has been started up.

—The Football men are now sporting their caps.

—There will be no underclassman dance, Junior Week.

—The Basketball Team starts on the trip week after next.

—Fiske, '10, is confined to his room by a severe case of influenza.

—Baum, '09, has had charge of the library in Mr. Babcock's absence.

—Dewitt, ex-'07, is on the Hill and expects to stay over Junior Week.

—Don Risley will accompany the Basketball Team on the mid-winter trip.

—Frank Barnes, ex-'02, intends to practice law in Albany, beginning next fall.

—McGarry, '09, is around again, having recovered from his recent illness.

—Dr. Stryker intends to be away from College the greater share of this month.

—Renwick, '10, had the toes of his left foot frozen, while on a long tramp, Sunday.

—Professors Wood and Lewis have addressed the Clinton Y. M. C. A. recently.

—Professor Ibbotson has recovered from the effects of his fall and is back on the Hill.

—P. H. Clarke and Hopkins, '12, are out for the Assistant Managership of Football.

—Blodgett, '09, entertained the Butinski in his Room in Carnegie, Wednesday night.

—The Sophomores have arranged two games of Basketball with the Colgate Sophs.

—Roseboom, '08, has accepted a position as leader in the Michigan Agriculture College.

—C. E. Anibal, '11, has been elected manager of the Sophomore Class Basketball Team.

—Harper, '10, returned to College this week. He had been out of College since before Christmas.

—The Alumni are responding generously to the call for subscriptions for our Football Coach.

—There are now four candidates for Assistant Manager of Track, Grant, Patteson, Peck and Warren.

—A good number of Alumni are reported to be coming back to aid in making the Prom. a success.

—Alumni on the Hill last week: Barnes, ex.-'02, Brokaw, '06, DeWitt, ex-'07, Ross, '08, Cody, '08.

—Professor Saunders is considering the construction of a wireless telegraphy station on the Hill.

—This year, every crowd will give a formal dance during Junior Week. The invitations have all appeared.

—Dr. Squires gave a lecture at the Mid-Winter Conference held at the Auburn Theological Seminary Monday.

—O'Brien, '11, has left College on account of ill health. He expects to enter a law office in Albany next fall.

—The wooden back-board in the Gym. has been changed for one which will cause the ball to rebound much less.

—Vice President-elect Sherman, '78, will speak at Lincoln Banquet to be given by the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce.

—Professor Carruth was unable to attend clases during the latter portion of last week, on account of acute indigestion.

—The Seniors who submitted orations for the Kellogg, Pruyn, or Head may obtain them from Professor Lewis, No. 2 Truax.

—Professor Babcock will be the principal speaker at the Lincoln's Birthday Celebration of the Clinton High School.

—Certificates for the Kellogg, the Albany, the Pratt, and R. L. Meyers Teachers' Agencies, may be had from Wilcox, '09.

—Dr. Stryker spoke at a dinner given January 25th in honor of Rev. J. H. Hobbs, the new pastor of Westminister Church in Utica.

—The Burgess estate, situated in New York City, was sold last week. From the proceeds, Hamilton will receive a large bequest.

—The German Club met Wednesday evening with Professor Brandt. They continued the reading of Moser's "Kopinekerstrasse, 120."

—The noisy filling of the coal-bins in South has caused some disturbance of the usual uninterrupted pursuits of knowledge within those classic halls.

—The Alumni Basketball game which was scheduled for next Friday afternoon, seems to have fallen thru. Instead the annual Freshman-Sophomore game will probably be played at that time.

—Bob Mantell has been engaged as Baseball Coach for the following season. With the material that has come for battery practice and with Mantell for coach the Baseball season should be a great success.

—Captain Spencer has been working hard with the Relay Team for the past few weeks. Renwick, Knox,'10, Wenigman, Peters, C. D. Root and D. S. Root, '12, seem to be the most promising candidates for the Team.

—On account of lack of satisfactory competition in the Essay Contest, only one of the prizes offered by the "Lit." Board was awarded. The first prize of fifteen dollars was divided between Glover, '10, and Plant, '12.

—The electricity was turned on in the Gym. for the first time, Wednesday afternoon. The sixteen powerful Tungsten bulbs set in the ceiling, give a powerful and satisfactory light.

A LIBERAL OFFER.

F. K. Briggs, of Utica, makes an offer to Hamilton College men that will enable them to have a Banjo Club. In the nineties Hamilton had a fine Banjo Club, Mr. Briggs has instructed them for several seasons and has had pupils represented on the club for 12 years.

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